

ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCALDY



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

YEAR 1955

HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT,
1-5 ST. BRYCEDALE ROAD,
KIRKCALDY.

October, 1956.

To the PROVOST, MAGISTRATES AND TOWN COUNCILLORS
OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCALDY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the health
of the Burgh for the year 1955.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES R. W. HAY,
Medical Officer of Health.



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STAFF

DESIGNATION	OFFICER	QUALIFICATION
Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Officer, School Medical Officer, etc.	James R. W. Hay	M.B., Ch.B., M.D., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	James A. Petrie, M.C.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	Agnes C. D. Penman	M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.
Dental Officers	Rachel I. Mears Alex. S. Mitchell	L.D.S. L.D.S.
Superintendent of Nurses	Rachel M. Thomson	R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., H.V., D.M.
Health Visitors	Mrs. M. P. Anderson (Commenced 19/7/55) Mrs. I. B. Bannerman Miss M. Berry (Resigned 21/5/55) Miss M. Burns (Resigned 31/8/56) Miss M. Cairns Mrs. M. S. Campbell (Commenced 1/2/56) Miss R. R. Cullen Miss C. Donaldson (Retired 6/8/55) Miss C. Haig Mrs. I. J. Hale Miss H. C. Keegans (Retired 15/1/56) Miss I. Mitchell Miss E. P. MacPherson Miss B. Scott Miss M. N. Tweedie Miss B. Williamson (Commenced 3/5/55)	R.G.N., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., R.F.N., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. S.C.M., H.V., S.S. R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., H.V., S.R.M.N. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V.
District Nursing Sisters	Mrs. Isabella Gray Mrs. Ella Hunter Miss A. C. Kelly Miss J. Leitch Mrs. E. McIntyre Mrs. H. B. Walker Mrs. M. L. Welsh Mrs. M. Wylie	R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., R.S.C.N. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M., S.R.M.N.

STAFFS (continued)

DESIGNATION	OFFICER	QUALIFICATION
Enrolled Assistant Nurses	Miss B. H. Berry Mrs. M. A. McLaren	S.E.A.N. S.E.A.N.
Municipal Midwives	Miss M. Brown Miss M. Livingstone Miss M. L. Moodie	S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M.
" Authorised " and Assistant Welfare Officers	William Eadie Robert T. Cuthbert	
Matron (Abden Home)	Miss J. M. G. Robertson	R.G.N., S.C.M.
Medical Officer (Abden Home)	George F. Cables	M.B., Ch.B.
Consultant Oculist	C. R. Duncan Leeds	M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E., D.O.M.S.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	John Page	M.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.
Deputy Sanitary Inspector	Forbes B. Moodie	
Assistant Sanitary Inspectors	David K. Comrie Joseph Oates Robert Easson James Halfpenny Harry Lee	
Assistant Cleansing Inspector	Angus C. Brown	

CLINICS

Tuberculosis and V.D. Dispensaries	.....	Dunnikier Road
Child Welfare ; Ante-natal ; Dental ; School and Minor Ailments ; Eye ; Ultra Violet Ray, etc. ....	.....	Loughborough Road
Child Welfare ; School and Minor Ailments ; Dental ; Ear, Nose and Throat ; Immunisation, etc. . . . .	.....	Glebe Park
Child Welfare	.....	Alison Street
Child Welfare	.....	Hayfield

FOREWORD
and
VITAL STATISTICS

VITAL STATISTICS

	1955	1954	1953
Population, estimated to middle of year	51,093	50,520	50,119
Births	856	938	840
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	16.8	18.6	16.8
Illegitimate birth-rate per 100 live births	4.0	4.4	4.2
Marriages	478	468	489
Marriage rate	9.4	9.3	9.8
Deaths	553	624	535
Death-rate per 1,000 population	10.8	12.4	10.7
Infant Deaths	27	24	24
Infantile Mortality rate	32	26	29
Still-births	27	32	20
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live births	31	33	23
Maternal Deaths	1	2	—
Maternal Death-rate	1.2	2.13	—
All Tuberculosis Deaths	13	9	8
All Tuberculosis Death-rate	0.25	0.18	0.16
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Deaths	11	9	8
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death-rate	0.22	0.18	0.16
Area of Burgh	4,890	4,890	4,890
Census of occupied houses	16,325	16,238	15,480
Rateable value of Burgh	£485,735	£474,112	£451,563

foreword

The headings of this Report follow the suggestions of D.H.S. Circular No. 63/1955, and are practically identical with those for the previous year when matters of special interest were fully discussed on pages 8-15 of the Annual Report for the year 1954. The relative statistics are brought up to date in the appendices to this Report.

The Vital Statistics summarised on the opposite page accord with the general trends of the past year or two. The general death rate is one of the lowest recorded in the Burgh, but neither this nor the slight rise in the infantile mortality rate is statistically significant in a Burgh of just over fifty thousand inhabitants. It appears that the birth rate is being maintained at the approximate level of seventeen live births per thousand of the population and that the steady decline noted from the beginning of the century has been arrested. The infectious diseases death rate is not included in the tables since no deaths have occurred from the classical infectious diseases, once the main target of preventive medicine. As indicated in last year's Report the most vulnerable part of the community is now its adult and aged members. Further reduction of the relatively low infant mortality rate will depend on research by specialist officers outwith the scope of the Local Health Authority.

(1) CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Statistics relating to this heading are shown on page 15. There is an increasing awareness and demand for clinic services amongst the many new families in the rapidly developing housing areas. In regard to dental care of expectant and nursing mothers there has not been an embarrassing demand for dentures. "Problem" families have not been in evidence and the activities of the special committee referred to in last year's Report have centred on a relatively small core of families already known to most of the welfare agencies in the Burgh. The uptake of welfare foods is shown on page 15 and it will be seen that there has been no falling-off since the Local Authority took over the Ministry of Food's functions in this respect. This is extremely satisfactory and also rather surprising in view of the fact that liquid milk has replaced dried milk to a considerable extent and is not issued by the Local Authority.

(2) MIDWIFERY

The balance between confinements at home and confinements in hospital has not yet been adjusted but there is evidence that the strong swing towards hospital confinements is slowing down and may actually be reversed in the near future. The determining factor is

undoubtedly the availability of hospital beds. From the practical angle of this Authority the difficulty is to assess when the existing staff of three whole-time municipal midwives should be restored to its former figure of four. Analgesia, including the new Trilene apparatus, is available, the latter to be used on the direction of the doctor in charge of the case. There has been no real demand for the newer analgesic.

The ante-natal aspect of domiciliary midwifery in the Burgh is not entirely satisfactory. In previous reports reference has been made to the sudden fall-off of cases referred to the obstetrician's ante-natal clinic. This did not occur under the old Act because the whole team of specialists, nurses, etc., knew their exact place and responsibilities. On principle one has always regarded the family doctor as the primary director of operations and the municipal midwives are instructed to consult him on all matters arising in connection with an expectant mother. If a midwife is worried about any condition in the ante-natal period which in her opinion requires specialist advice and such is not obtained via the family doctor then very reluctantly I think that she should approach the obstetrician directly. Such a course would inevitably impair the team spirit but the fault lies intrinsically in the administrative and financial implications of the 1947 Act.

(3) HEALTH VISITING

The work of the Burgh's whole-time health visitors is summarised in the various appendices including school medical services, pages 17, 23-24. The health visitor has recently been the focus of a great deal of attention primarily by those who do not understand what her work is and how she is employed. The Burgh has never been in any doubt that the health visitor is an adviser and consultant in health matters, available to every household in the Burgh. She neither nurses nor treats patients in an active capacity but she is nevertheless an indispensable unit of the health services. In the Burgh she does not work in splendid isolation; she is part of the Health Department's team which includes social workers, almoners, midwives, district nursing sisters, etc. She is also an integral part of the services administered by the local Hospital Board, e.g., health visitors are seconded as sisters to the Chest Dispensary, the Paediatric Clinic, and the V.D. Dispensary. Inevitably she is overworked and the time has come to relieve her of what might be called enumerator jobs. I refer to the interminable surveys involving questionnaires to be completed by health visitors. It is uneconomic to employ specialist officers on such work.

(4) HOME NURSING

The home nursing service is in a somewhat similar position as was pointed out last year. One would have liked to start a home nursing service for sick children for there is no doubt that the vast majority of sick children should be nursed at home rather than in hospital. To some extent the home nursing service if not abused is being improperly used. The first two or three hours of the day's work is

occupied in giving injections, many of which could have been given at the hospital out-patient department, the doctor's surgery, or by the patients themselves. The rest of the day is monopolised by the urgent nursing demands of the chronic sick. As will be referred to later, the hospital authority has failed to deal with the problem of the chronic case requiring twenty-four hours' nursing only.

(5) DOMESTIC HELP

This service is relatively large, ninety part-time workers being employed, but in this Burgh a full-time service is not a practical nor probably a desirable proposition. It is rarely possible to obtain home help during the night because most of the home helps have their own households to look after from 5 p.m. onwards. The chronic sick and elderly and infirm figure largely in the households attended by home helps (see page 18).

(6) VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The position in the Burgh was discussed fully last year and the statistics shown on page 18 do not reflect any significant change.

(7) PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Steady progress on the lines already reported is being made in the campaign against tuberculosis. The school leavers' scheme originally designed to pick up the 15 to 16 years of age group has been extended to pick up the 13 year old group. No official approval has been sought to this reduction of age but it is understood that the English Ministry now endorses this policy. The examination of contacts has been intensified and has been extended beyond the household, *e.g.*, whole classes in school are being regarded as contacts and likewise shops, hostels, etc. Since very adequate diagnostic facilities are available in the Burgh there has been no delay in picking up cases and the extended contact net has yielded surprisingly good results. The teaching profession in the Burgh also volunteered to be screened and it is comforting to record that no infecting source exists there. A fair proportion of the new cases during the year had been resident in the Burgh for less than one year. The result of all this activity inevitably raised the total number of notifications and the total of eighty-four is relatively high. It is to be hoped that Kirkcaldy will not be regarded as a "black spot" in consequence. Any comparable area which does not possess the diagnostic facilities of Kirkcaldy and cannot examine the same number of contacts will inevitably show a lower incidence of tuberculosis and the actual cause of death may be ascribed to other conditions.

(8) CHIROPODY

The chiropody service referred to last year is expanding slowly and is generally appreciated. No difficulties have arisen in operating his free choice scheme.

(9) HEALTH EDUCATION

As previously recorded, health education in the Burgh is largely a personal matter promoted by the health visitors in the homes, but most of the officers in the department, at clinics, guild meetings, schools, etc., put across the main principles to groups of the community. Recently I was very impressed by essays written by members of a school mothercraft class. It augurs well for the citizens of the future that the basic principles of our health services are so well appreciated. Incidentally, it reflects a good deal of credit on the health visitor who gave these particular lectures. Accidents in the home are featured in such talks, lectures, etc., and a booklet is being prepared in conjunction with Sky Press Limited for distribution in the near future. It will deal with accidents in the home and at work.

(10) CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No serious outbreak of any infectious disease occurred during the year but the usual incidence of gastro intestinal infections was noted. Notification of these are fairly complete in the Burgh since the practitioners were asked to notify any case of food poisoning as well as any "dysentery." One case of poliomyelitis was notified, the disease being contracted in France while on holiday and minor paralysis becoming apparent on return to this country.

The reduction in the death rates, both general, and particularly for infants and for those suffering from infectious disease has contributed materially to the longer expectation of life enjoyed by the present generation, but it must be confessed that a tremendous amount of disability still exists and longevity may not be so enjoyable as was anticipated. If one examines the statistics relating to incapacity for work one is struck by two significant findings. In the first place, very few people appear to be ill during the holiday periods! There are reasons other than medical for this phenomenon. Secondly, the main causes of incapacity are diseases which are so commonplace that they have not attracted the attention and research which they deserve. Both these factors can be related when one instances, for example, chronic bronchitis, a condition which is extremely common in urban areas and for which no specific remedy has been found. The condition tends to get worse, with increasing incapacity, until the strain on the lungs and heart lead to fatal terminations which are recorded as pneumonia or cardio-vascular disease. Public attention has been focussed on such conditions as lung cancer, coronary thrombosis, etc., and a great deal of research is being conducted in regard to the causation of these two conditions which are relatively more common to-day than they were forty or fifty years ago. Taking the broadest view, indeed one might almost say the layman's view, the inescapable conclusion emerges that modern life, especially in the industrialised towns, is bringing its own health problems. The resulting disease processes appear to be slowly cumulative and irrever-

sible. It appears likely that the polluted air of our cities and towns irritates the delicate mucous membranes of our respiratory tract and added irritants, such as smoking, accelerate matters until such time as the tissues break down or revolt. Recent research into coronary thrombosis does suggest that modern dietary may be largely responsible. One has also to anticipate the long term effects of radiation, whether this comes from the atmosphere or from the more frequent use of X-rays. The present day practitioner of preventive medicine has, therefore, to face as much opposition by vested interests as did his predecessor who set out to clear up the slums and drains of his insanitary era. Recent legislation to promote clean air and clean streams is not particularly effective when one considers the loopholes provided in the Clean Air Bill and the composition of the River Pollution Boards which appear to be made up of representatives of the main offenders.

The end result of increasing non-fatal disability and added years produces the entity of chronic sickness in the elderly and here the Local Authority is faced with a serious problem. For many years these Annual Reports have recorded that at any one time there were forty to fifty old people in the Burgh in need of twenty-four hours' nursing who were eking out a distressing existence in their own homes despite all that a generous home help and a district nursing service could provide. Towards the end of the year a survey was conducted to determine how many of these people satisfied the criteria laid down for admission to hospital. Excluded from the survey were those in the Local Authority's own Part III accommodation who were definitely hospital cases, and those of whom the department was unaware. In all, fifty-nine cases, seven between 50 and 60 years, eleven between 60 and 70 years, and forty-one between 71 and 91 years of age were found to be in urgent need of hospital attention. Most of them suffered from cardio-vascular disease (42 cases). The actual case histories were so distressing that the report submitted to the Committee was made confidential. Now these cases constitute less than one per cent of the aged population in the Burgh yet their continued neglect, for such it is despite the devoted attention of relatives where they exist, neighbours, home helps, nurses, etc., is a reproach to the social services. Death supervened, on the basis of the survey cases reassessed six months' later, in 25% while the total was kept up by new cases. Representations had already been made by the Town Council in 1953 to the Hospital Board and were renewed as a result of the survey. One feels that the time is past for trailing red herrings such as "the place for the aged is at home," "most old people can be kept on their feet if they get proper attention," etc., whenever one requests hospital provision for this growing section of the community.

Abden Home, provided under Part II and Part III of the Act, was upgraded and a matron put in charge. The improvement in the residents there has been dramatic in so far as their outlook and increased self respect are concerned. While several cases have improved

physically as a result of specialised treatment it must be recorded that nothing like full rehabilitation has been achieved in any case. The failure of the hospital service to relieve the position for the chronic sick has resulted in an accumulation of heavy nursing cases far beyond the resources of the building and its staff. Statistics relating to Abden Home are shown on page 26.

The almoner service, particulars of which are shown on page 27 has completed its second year of operation. The service is now well established and its value is in no doubt.

The widening frontiers of public health extend to so many interests and departments that it would not be unreasonable for the latter to regard the Medical Officer of Health as an interfering busybody! It gives me pleasure, therefore, to record that I have received the greatest assistance by every department of the Corporation, the local Hospital Board and its officers, the general practitioners in the Burgh, the officers of the various national Boards, the Education Authority, Industry, etc., during the year.

A. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22).

(a) ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS* (whether provided at Child Welfare Centres or at other premises).

	<i>Ante-natal</i>	<i>Post-natal</i>
(i) Number of clinics at end of year provided by local health authority	1	1
(ii) Number of clinics at end of year provided by voluntary bodies ..	—	—
(iii) Total number of women who attended the clinics during the year	1,172	190

(b) CHILD WELFARE CLINICS*

(i) Number of clinics at end of year provided by local health authority	4
(ii) Number of clinics at end of year provided by voluntary bodies ..	—
(iii) Total number of children under five years of age who first attended at the clinics during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance were:	
(a) Under one year of age ..	941
(b) Over one year of age ..	376
(iv) Total number of attendances during the year made at the clinics by children who, at the end of the year were:	
(a) Under one year of age ..	8,394
(b) Over one year of age ..	3,432

* Clinics mean clinic premises.

(c) DENTAL CARE FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS, PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL CHILDREN.

	<i>Expectant Mothers</i>	<i>Nursing Mothers</i>	<i>Pre-school Children</i>
(i) Number inspected by Dental Officer	29	10	125
(ii) Number found to require treatment	29	10	112
(iii) Number accepting treatment	21†	9ø	112
(iv) Number actually treated by Dental Officer	15	7	112

† 8 County cases referred to Clinics in their own area.

ø 1 County case referred to Clinic in her own area.

(d) WELFARE FOODS—Statement of issues since taking over in July, 1954:

Nat. Dried Milk	46,064 tins	Cash recov.	£2,011 11 6
Orange Juice	55,299 botts.	Cash recov.	£1,135 13 5
Cod Liver Oil	10,955 botts.	No charge.	
A. & D. Tablets	3,378 pkts.	No charge.	

2. Midwifery (Section 23).

(a) Total number of births (including still-births occurring in the area during the year—that is, before correction for mother's residence ..	1,561
(b) Number of births in (a) classified to show type of case and whether doctor present at confinement :	
(i) Cases dealt with under Section 23(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947:	
(a) Doctor engaged and present at confinement	68
(b) Doctor engaged but not present at confinement	132
(c) Midwife alone (no doctor engaged) ..	—
(d) No prior arrangements for domiciliary confinement (booked for maternity hospital), but midwifery services provided free of charge by local health authority until patient transferred to hospital	4
(e) Domiciliary cases transferred to maternity hospital for confinement	20
(ii) Other domiciliary cases:	
(a) Doctor and midwife engaged	3
(b) Midwife alone (no doctor engaged) ..	6
(c) All other cases *	5
(iii) Cases attended at Institution (including private maternity and nursing homes) in the area of the local health authority	1,323
* County births in own home then removed to hospital.	
(iv) Administration of Analgesia:	
(a) Number of domiciliary midwives qualified to administer gas and air analgesia in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland ..	3
(b) Number of sets of apparatus for the administration of gas and air at 31st December, 1955	2
(c) Number of cases in which gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice:	
(i) when doctor was not present at confinement	53
(ii) when doctor was present at confinement	18
(d) Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year:	
(i) when doctor was not present at delivery (but under doctor's instructions)	66
(ii) when doctor was present at delivery ..	46

(v) Number of cars in use by midwives at 31st December, 1955 (plus taxis hired during night)	1
(vi) Number of maternity packs issued to domiciliary cases during the year	226
Cost to local health authority	£129
(vii) Number of visits by domiciliary midwives to cases during the year	4,280

Of the 1,534 confinements which took place in the Burgh during the year the distribution was as follows:

(a) Conducted in patient's own home:	
(i) Under National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947	197
(ii) Not under National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947	10
(b) Conducted in Forth Park Maternity Hospital:	
(i) Burgh patients	591
(ii) County patients	707
(iii) Domiciliary cases transferred to Forth Park Maternity Hospital	20
(iv) Delivered at home then transferred to Hospital:	
Burgh cases	4
County	5

Twenty-seven midwives (including the staff of Forth Park Maternity Hospital) notified their intention to practise in the Burgh during the year.

3. Health Visiting (Section 24).

	<i>Number Visited</i>	<i>Total Visits</i>
(a) Local Health Authority Services:		
(i) Expectant Mothers	353	1,197
(ii) Infants	1,810	13,687
(iii) Children (1-5 years)	2,744	18,177
(iv) Cases of Tuberculosis	356	1,779

Other cases:

Old Persons	20	57
Infectious Diseases	470	547
Domestic Help Scheme	255	3,397
Housing (Medical Conditions)	32	56
Chiropody	49	53
Miscellaneous	267	358
Wasted visits	—	904

Of the 199 infants visited at the age of six months, 36 were breast fed, 85 were artificially fed, and 78 were fed by both methods.

4. Home Nursing (Section 25).

	<i>Under 65 Years of Age</i>	<i>Over 65 Years of Age</i>
1. Number of cases attended by home nurses under arrangements made by the local health authority	770	503
2. Number of visits paid by home nurses to above cases	19,045	16,371

5. Domestic Help (Section 28).

(i) Number of domestic helps employed at end of year:	
(a) Whole-time	1
(b) Part-time	90
(c) Retaining fee basis	—
(ii) Number of cases for which domestic help was provided during the year	267
Number of cases in (ii) provided on account of:	
(a) Confinement at home	4
(b) Confinement in hospital	5
(c) Chronic sick, including aged and infirm ..	184
(d) Other illnesses	74
(iii) Average period of assistance	218.5 hrs.

6. Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26).

The following statistics show the work done during the year:

(i) VACCINIA:	
Number of vaccinations by general practitioners ..	214
Number of vaccinations by Child Welfare Officer	219
(ii) DIPHTHERIA:	
	<i>Doses</i>
	<i>First Maintenance</i>
Number of inoculations by general practitioners	233 14
Number of inoculations by Child Welfare Officer	581 691
(iii) WHOOPING COUGH:	
Number of first visits only	1
Number of return visits	10
(iv) TUBERCULOSIS:	
Number of nurses vaccinated with B.C.G. ..	4
Number of contacts vaccinated with B.C.G. ..	31
Number of school leavers vaccinated with B.C.G.	304
Number of new born babies vaccinated with B.C.G.	8
Number of others vaccinated with B.C.G. ..	5

Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of Persons primarily vaccinated during period:

Year of Birth of Persons	Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th to 10th day	Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th to 7th day	Reaction greatest at 2nd to 3rd day	No local reaction
1955	176	1	—	21
1954	114	1	—	39
1953	8	—	—	5
1952	2	—	—	2
1951	2	—	—	—
1950	—	—	—	—
1949	1	—	—	—
1948	—	—	—	1
1947	1	—	—	—
1946	—	—	—	—
1945	—	—	—	—
1944	—	—	—	—
1943	—	—	—	—
1942	1	—	—	—
1941	—	—	—	—
1940 or earlier	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	305	2	—	68

Number of Persons re-vaccinated during period:

Year of Birth of Persons	Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th to 10th day	Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th to 7th day	Reaction greatest at 2nd to 3rd day	No local reaction
1955	1	—	—	—
1954	4	—	—	1
1953	—	—	—	1
1952	1	—	—	—
1951	1	1	—	—
1950	—	—	—	—
1949	—	—	—	—
1948	—	1	—	—
1947	—	1	—	—
1946	—	1	—	—
1945	—	—	—	—
1944	—	—	—	—
1943	—	—	—	—
1942	—	—	—	—
1941	—	—	—	—
1940 or earlier	8	22	14	1
TOTALS	15	26	14	3

Diphtheria Immunisation

Year of Birth of Persons	No. of New Immunisations completed during period	No. of maintenance inoculations given during period	Confirmed cases of Diphtheria during period	
			Immunised	Non-immunised
1955	98	—	—	—
1954	406	—	—	—
1953	51	—	—	—
1952	14	2	—	—
1951	15	9	—	—
1950	66	352	—	—
1949	139	295	—	—
1948	16	38	—	—
1947	3	3	—	—
1946	4	5	—	—
1945	2	1	—	—
1944	—	—	—	—
1943	—	—	—	—
1942	—	—	—	—
1941	—	—	—	—
1940 or earlier	—	—	—	—
Totals	814	705	Nil	Nil

7. B.C.G. Vaccination

Group	Tuberculin Tested		Negative Re-actors		Vaccinated during 1955	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Nurses	—	61	—	10	—	4
Contacts	34	28	25	20	27	31
School leavers	542	499	398	371	141	163
* Others	—	35	—	6	—	5

* Domestic staffs in hospital.

Number of Contacts Tuberculin Tested under the B.C.G. Vaccination Scheme :

Age Group	Result				Totals	
	Positive		Negative			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	4	—	4	—
1 and under 5 years	2	1	11	5	13	6
5 and under 10 years	3	2	7	12	10	14
10 and under 15 years	3	2	3	2	6	4
15 and under 20 years	1	2	—	1	1	3
20 years and over	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total Tests Performed	9	8	25	20	34	28

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care

TUBERCULOSIS. During the year goods comprising beds and bedding to the value of £53 7s. 10d. were supplied to eleven applicants suffering from tuberculosis. No financial recovery was made.

CHIROPODY SERVICE.

Total number of applications received to 31/12/54	76
Number of new applications during 1955	.. 196
Number of treatments carried out during 1955	.. 814
Amount of fees recovered	.. .. £48 16s. 6d.

8. Control of Infectious Diseases

Nature of Disease	No. of Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital	Not Removed to Hospital
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	—
Chickenpox	66	—	66
Dysentery	177	15	162
Erysipelas	23	1	22
Jaundice	35	1	34
Malaria	1	—	1
Measles	720	1	719
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	2
Pneumonia, acute influenzal ..	3	1	2
Pneumonia, acute primary	60	34	26
Poliomyelitis, acute	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	3	—
Scarlet Fever	43	4	39
Whooping Cough	16	1	15
Gastro Enteritis	77	11	66
Food Poisoning	21	1	20
Glandular Fever	1	1	—
Croup	2	2	—
Enteritis	46	3	43
Pyrexia, unknown origin	1	1	—
Rubella	1	—	1
Septic Abortion	2	2	—
Laryngo Tracheitis	3	3	—
Bronchitis	1	1	—
Diarrhoea	1	1	—
Tonsillitis	5	4	1
Mumps	2	1	1
Influenza	1	1	—
Cardio-Vascular Disease	2	2	—
Shingles	1	1	—
Lymphatic Meningitis	1	1	—
TOTALS	1,321	101	1,220

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Eighty-two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1955 as compared with sixty-seven for the previous year.

Included in the eighty-two cases are fourteen transferred from other areas during the year in the following age groups:

8 males—aged 7, 25, 26, 27, 27, 28, 37 and 44 years;

6 females—aged 18, 21, 23, 23, 24 and 34 years.

The following case was transferred out to another area during the year:

1 male, aged 28 years.

1 male, aged 42 years, and 1 female aged 40 years, were not confirmed, and a male of 27 years was still under observation at the end of the year.

Age Period	No. of cases notified		No. of notified cases actually confirmed		No. of notified cases receiving Sanatorium treatment		No. of Deaths of notified cases		Total Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	7	4	6	4	3	3	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years	7	17	7	12	3	9	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	14	10	7	9	5	5	1	—	2	2
35 to 45 years	4	4	1	3	1	1	—	—	1	—
45 to 55 years	4	1	4	1	3	—	1	—	1	—
55 to 65 years	5	2	5	2	4	—	1	2	2	2
65 upwards	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	44	38	33	31	21	18	3	2	6	5

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Eight cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1955 as compared with seven cases during 1954.

Included in the eight cases were two females, aged 17 months and 3 years respectively, who were transferred in from other areas. Diagnosis was not confirmed in a male of 17 years.

Age Period	No. of cases notified		No. of notified cases actually confirmed		No. of notified cases receiving Sanatorium Treatment		No. of deaths of cases notified		Total Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	1
5 to 10 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
25 to 35	1	2	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
35 to 45	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	5	2	5	2	3	—	1	—	2

The site of the disease in the above cases was found to be:

Glands	2 (-m.	2f.)
Spine	3 (2m.	1f.)
Genito-urinary	1 (1m.	-f.)
Meninges	1 (-m.	1f.)
Kidney	1 (-m.	1f.)

The number of persons resident in the area at 31st December, 1955, who were known to be suffering from tuberculosis was:

Pulmonary	395
Non-Pulmonary	65
Total	<u>460</u>

9. Mental Health Service

MENTAL DEFECTIVES:

	M.	F.
Number of children (under 16 years) in Institutions	1	7
Number of adults (under private guardianship) ..	4	3
Number of adults in Institutions	19	14

LUNACY:

The following statistics show the position at Fife District Mental Hospital with regard to Burgh patients:

Number in the Institution at 31/12/54	71	88
Number certified insane and removed to Fife District Mental Hospital during 1955	17	13
Discharges during 1955	14	14
Deaths during 1955	8	8
Number in the Institution at 31/12/55	66	79

10. Work under Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act

No applications for registration were received during the year.

B. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

As formerly, school medical inspection has been carried out by the Burgh's staff, and a full report has been forwarded to the Education Authority. A brief summary relating to the school year 1954/55 is given herewith:

	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of parents present at medical inspection:			
(a) with entrant infants	396	352	748
(b) with others (second age group) ..	244	286	530
(c) at clinics	—	—	61
Number of examinations:			
Entrants	449	432	881
Second age group	366	314	680
Third age group	383	321	704
Vision testing (6-7 years)	304	301	605

B. School Health Service— <i>continued</i>				Boys	Girls	Total
Fourth age group	..	..	..	38	47	85
Re-examinations	..	..	..	82	95	177
Non-routines	..	..	..	245	255	500
Number of children examined	..	..	..	1,236	1,114	2,350
Clean	..	..	..	1,223	1,071	2,294
Nits or head vermin	..	..	..	13	43	56
Visions—routine	..	..	..	304	301	605
non-routine	..	..	..	76	82	158
re-examinations	..	..	..	29	23	52
Referred for examination—routine	..	..	..	8	11	19
Total number of clinic sessions:						
(a) General clinics	..	..	..	—	—	52
(b) Special clinics—Eye	..	..	..	—	—	8

MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC:

Number of new cases	..	..	..	—	—	1,304
Total attendances	..	..	..	—	—	3,279
Number of parents present	..	..	..	—	—	61

Treatments carried out by nurses:

				New Cases	Total Attendances
Uncleanliness or Neglect	..	..	..	3	6
Impetigo Contagiosa	..	..	..	139	514
Other skin conditions	..	..	..	77	182
Otorrhoea	..	..	..	29	131
Eye Disease (external)	..	..	..	55	144
Other cases	..	..	..	157	369
Cuts and Bruises	..	..	..	535	1,075
Septic conditions	..	..	..	299	863
Accidents	..	..	..	11	53
Advisory cases	..	..	..	17	35
Ear cases	..	..	..	7	8

Applications were received for boots and clothing as under:

				Boys	Girls
Clothing and Boots	..	..	..	16	14
Clothing only	..	..	..	2	1
Boots only	..	..	..	—	—

Ten children of school age were accommodated for short periods at the Convalescent Home at Humble (Seaforth Sanatorium Trust).

Dental Inspection and Treatment

Number of children who were inspected during the year:

Age	Systematic Examina- tions	Special and Emergency Cases	Total
-5	72	—	72
5	515	82	597
6	626	107	733
7	688	96	784
8	592	81	673
9	480	70	550
10	533	48	581
11	460	41	501
12	394	35	429
13	436	25	461
14	540	34	574
15	109	8	117
16	1	2	3
17	—	4	4
	5,446	633	6,079
Found to require treatment	3,571	633	
Actually treated by School Dental Officer	1,212	633	
No. of attendances for treatment	3,673	1,734	
Fillings :			
(a) Permanent Teeth	1,561	560	
(b) Temporary Teeth	513	112	
Extractions :			
(a) Permanent Teeth	249	72	
(b) Temporary Teeth	1,151	390	
No. of administrations of general anaesthetic for extraction	—	—	
Other operations :			
(a) Permanent Teeth	667	508	
(b) Temporary Teeth	1,200	912	
Scaling and Gum Treatment	601	196	
Partial Dentures	2	3	
Sessions devoted to inspection	53	—	
Sessions devoted to treatment	505	383	
Referred for X-ray	60	—	
Orthodontic treatment :			
No. of new cases	26	—	
No. of attendances (old and new cases)	968	—	
No. of cases completed	14	—	

C. PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Forty-nine ships from foreign ports entered Kirkcaldy Harbour during 1955 and pratique was granted in all cases.

D. FOOD SUPPLY

See Sanitary Inspector's Report, page 32.

E. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Residential Accommodation

		Part III Accommodation			Part II Accommodation		
		M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.
Number at 31/12/54	K.	30	12	—	—	—	—
Admitted during 1955	K.	18	7	—	9	8	—
Discharged during 1955	K.	14	5	—	9	8	—
Deaths during 1955	K.	7	2	—	—	—	—
Number at 31/12/55	K.	27	12	—	—	—	—

Registration and inspection of disabled or old persons'

homes (Section 37)	Nil
Removals (Section 47)	Nil
Care of property (Section 48)	Nil
Burials (Section 50)	6

F. WORK DONE UNDER THE NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1938

No nursing homes proper operate in the Burgh, exemption being granted to Kirkcaldy General Hospital and the Hunter Hospital, now the property of the South-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, Scotland.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Full use has been made of all propaganda measures. The department's officers have a regular programme of lectures, etc., during the winter.

G. GENERAL SANITATION—See page 42.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occur Prostate
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	59	41	—	
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authorities	310	323	10	
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	15	30	—	
	384	394	10	

2. Cases in which Defects were found :

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	6	6	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	10	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	16	16	—	5	—

Part VIII of the Act
OUTWORK
 (SECTIONS 110 AND 111)
 Nil

Almoner Service

Cases continued from 1953	..	..	..	..	10
Cases continued from 1954	..	..	..	..	40
New cases during 1955	..	..	..	..	177
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>227</u>
New cases referred by—Hospitals	..	..	..	..	58
General Practitioners	..	..	..	..	11
Health Department	..	..	..	..	60
Routine interview of hospital cases	..	..	..	..	13
Other agencies (including Corporation Officials)	..	..	..	..	21
Own application	..	..	..	..	14
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>177</u>

Of the 177 cases, further environmental and social investigation was required in 164 cases.
 Convalescence in special homes was arranged for 29 cases; 4 had financial assistance from voluntary funds and two from Local Authority funds for convalescent homes.

Holidays were arranged for 11 cases, with financial assistance for 3 out of voluntary funds.

Financial help otherwise was given to 32 cases, 31 from voluntary funds and 1 from National Assistance; totalling in all £447 9s. This does not include assistance in kind by way of blankets, etc.

AFTER-CARE. Forty-four cases received other forms of after-care post convalescence proper:

Home helps	..	..	..	..	18
Residential homes	..	..	..	..	4
Nursing Home	..	..	..	..	1
Financial help	..	..	..	..	3
Advice, etc.	..	..	..	..	18
					<hr/>
					44
					<hr/>

Re-training and settlement arranged for 4 cases.

Vocational guidance 12 cases.

Diversional therapy 6 cases.

CARE OF CHILDREN. Five children were accommodated in temporary homes (including holiday homes).

UNMARRIED MOTHERS. Two were sent to residential homes.

Home visits paid to 325.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HOUSE,
KIRKCALDY.

June, 1956.

To the PROVOST, MAGISTRATES AND TOWN COUNCILLORS
OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCALDY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the general sanitary condition of the Burgh and of the work performed by the Sanitary and Cleansing Departments during the year, 1955.

This report has been compiled in accordance with the terms of D.H.S. Circular No. 63/1955.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PAGE,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

1. General Progress

Good progress was made with the clearance of unfit houses in the Links Street Re-Development area, and with individual properties in Bridgeton and other parts of the town. A start was also made with the condemnation of houses in Dysart where another re-development area is proposed. Altogether 142 houses were dealt with in terms of Section 9 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950; demolition orders were made in respect of 138 houses and 4 houses were the subject of closing orders. During the year a further 48 houses were voluntarily closed by the owners. Demolition work proceeded at a fair pace, especially on sites where re-building will be carried out by the Corporation. Over 100 houses are in course of being razed to the ground. Some small areas of condemned and vacated dwellings have already been cleared and re-building of houses commenced. Speed of demolition of old properties is governed, to a considerable extent, by the rate of progress in the erection of new houses, for until the occupiers can be re-housed or find alternative accommodation for themselves, little can be done. The Council continued its policy of allocating 50% of all new houses to families living in condemned houses and even with this generous allowance some families could not be re-housed timeously to allow demolition to proceed as planned. A fairly high proportion of small families and single persons reside in unfit property, and this necessitates decanting of families and other means to make the best use of new housing accommodation.

The total number of new houses completed in 1955 was 441; of this number 302 were built by the Corporation, 130 by the Scottish Special Housing Association, 6 for police purposes and 3 by private parties. The Corporation's output of new houses was less than anticipated earlier in the year, but the planned programme of building into the new year took cognisance of this fact to ensure a continuity of new houses being completed in accordance with the Council's phased programme over the next five years. Of the houses completed 23 were occupied by families from overcrowded houses, 71 by homeless families, 166 from other houses, including health cases and exchanges, 124 from condemned houses and 48 by transferred miners.

Although a total of 3,297 houses from all sources have been erected in the town since the war, the waiting list for houses did not show any appreciable reduction; some improvement, however, was noted in the figures relating to homeless families and overcrowded families in fit houses. The waiting list was revised by the Burgh Factor on 5th December and up-to-date applications totalled 2,433. When analysed the waiting list revealed the following details:—498 homeless families living in sub-let rooms; 92 overcrowded cases; 257 families residing in houses classified as unfit; 43 about to be married; 1,331 families living in passable houses, wishing alternative accommodation, and 105 Corporation tenants wishing a transfer of house.

In terms of Part II of the Housing (Repairs and Rents) Act, 1954, 19 applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair; of these 7 were granted, 4 were refused and in 8 cases notices were withdrawn by the owners when they were informed of the requirements of the Act and the maintenance work that was needed to each house before an increase of rent could be enforced. There were 4 applications by owners for the revocation of Certificates of Disrepair following completion of repairs and, as the works had been carried out satisfactorily, the applications were granted. Since the Act commenced in August, 1954, some 47 applications for Certificates of Disrepair have been investigated but few new cases now arise. So far as is known, few landlords raised the rents of controlled dwellinghouses in the town; this and the high costs of maintenance and repair continue to produce a marked deterioration of the buildings at many tenemental properties.

The Town Council's proposals under Section 1 of the Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954, and for the exercise of their functions under Part I of that Act and of Parts II and III of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, were approved by the Secretary of State. In the main, these proposals cover the condemnation of 467 unfit houses during the next three years and for a similar number of new houses to be erected for slum-clearance purposes in the same period.

Sixteen applications were made to the Local Authority for improvement grants under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, and twelve were granted. Applications were mainly in respect of owner-occupied houses. Bathrooms, kitchenettes, larders and the provision of hot water supply were the main improvements included in modernisations.

Sanitary reports were also prepared concerning thirteen houses likely to be acquired by the purchasers in terms of the Council's scheme under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

Sixty-two plans, covering general improvements and alterations to houses were examined and reported upon in conjunction with the Burgh Engineer to ensure compliance with bye-laws and other public health standards.

Visits to houses by Sanitary Staff throughout the year totalled 2,081. A general inspection of smallholdings at Gallatown was made and a summarised report on the condition of the houses prepared for the Lands Officer of the Department of Agriculture. Some of the smallholdings will be discontinued soon due to the poor condition of dwellinghouses and other buildings. Several hundred tenement houses were offered for sale to the Corporation this year when it became known the Council intended purchasing fifty houses for reconstruction and modernisation. Some of the properties were suitable for the purpose in mind, others offered useful alternative accommodation for displaced families to enable local re-development in the area to proceed, and their acquisition was under consideration. A number of the houses inspected, however, could not be recommended for purchase for improvement.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

2. Milk Supply

Clean milk production made further progress this year when improvements to premises were completed at Myregormie and Mitchelston. Works included re-grading of byre floors and channels, smooth cement plaster to walls, new concrete trevisses, better lighting and ventilation to byres, a modernised milk house and dairy scullery at one place and a new dairy complete at the other. Myregormie was licenced to produce Tuberculin Tested milk and Mitchelston will reach this grade on 1st January next. Thereafter, all dairy farms within the Burgh will be producing Tuberculin Tested milk and all premises will be up to bye-law standards.

The fact that dairy premises are good from a structural viewpoint, however, does not lessen the need for dairykeepers to maintain a regular daily cleansing of both plant and equipment as well as wall and floor surfaces of premises. In four cases increased supervision had to be given to ensure that milking units were properly washed and sterilised; in one instance it was found that sterilisation of milk cans needed greater attention. The walls of the scullery and dairy required to be cleaned at one place and at several others the general tidiness of the dairy surroundings were below what was expected where an easily contaminated product like milk is handled. Occasionally goods not associated with the business were found stored in the milk house. Wire screens were fitted to windows at one dairy where flies were troublesome. Milking methods called for improvement at one farm where washing of udders was being neglected and the practice of stripping the fore-milk was not being done regularly. Attention to detail in dairy management is essential if clean milk is to be produced, and where a labour shortage exists small matters are frequently overlooked. The dirty and unwashed condition in which many milk bottles are returned to retailers by householders continued to be a source of complaint by dairymen. The loss or non-return of milk bottles to retailers also creates milk distribution difficulties at week-ends.

At smallholdings there are five exempted dairies where nine cows are kept; surplus milk is fed to calves and pigs.

The two pasteurising plants functioned satisfactorily throughout the year despite the exceptionally long warm spell of weather, and a good standard of cleanliness of equipment prevailed though full staffs were not easily maintained. The daily turnover of milk at both plants was 4,600 gallons of which 2,670 gallons were consumed in the Burgh. The few complaints about poor keeping quality of pasteurised milk were found to be due to unsatisfactory storage at retail premises, or failure to return unsold milk timeously. Milk cans examined at creameries totalled 480; none was found in such a condition as to call for further action.

Details of dairy premises registered and licenced in 1955 are as follows:—

(1) REGISTRATIONS: MILK AND DAIRIES (Scotland) ACT, 1914:

	<i>Number</i>
Dairy byres capable of housing 172 cows (actual cows 134)	7
Milk retailers retailing within the Burgh	19
Retailed shops where only bottled milk is sold ..	23
Producers and wholesalers who do not sell by retail ..	6

(2) LICENCES: MILK (Special Designations) (Scotland) ORDER, 1951:

	<i>Number</i>
Supplementary licences to sell Certified Milk	2
Dealers licenced to sell Certified Milk	2
Supplementary licences to sell T.T. Milk	5
Dealers licenced to sell T.T. Milk	8
Producers licenced to produce T.T. Milk	7
Dealers licenced to sell Pasteurised Milk	2
Pasteurisers' Licences	2
Dealers licenced to sell T.T. Milk (wholesale only) ..	2

3. Milk (Special Designations) Orders

Milks submitted for bacteriological tests to Fife District Laboratory, Cameron Hospital, Windygates, were as follows:—

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Conformed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
Certified Milk	33	28	5
Tuberculin Tested Milk	165	125	40
Pasteurised Milk	57	56	1
Undesignated Milk	10	10	—
	<u>265</u>	<u>219</u>	<u>46</u>

The number of samples which did not conform to prescribed tests rose sharply this year, mainly due to the presence of B.Coli or excessive bacterial counts. In three instances there were three consecutive test failures within a month and milk dealers concerned appeared before the Health Committee; one referred to Certified Milk, the others to Tuberculin Tested Milks. The warm weather was blamed for the failures. It was pointed out, however, that a milk dealer was responsible for maintaining the bacteriological standard up to the time the milk was sold to the customer. The Sanitary Inspector was instructed to write all milk dealers drawing attention to this requirement and to advise that dealers review the adequacy of cooling and storage arrangements for milk on their premises. This matter will be further considered when milk licences come up for renewal in 1956. Of the three milk failures concerned, two supplies returned to normal fairly quickly but one Tuberculin Tested Milk

continued intermittently to give unfavourable results; tests were continued in conjunction with County officers, in whose area the milk was produced. A total of 45 follow-up samples were taken in course of investigating designated milk supplies not conforming to standard and 18 rinses of plant and equipment were checked for the presence of bacteria.

Seven samples of milk were submitted for biological tests covering four bulk samples from seven graded milk producers and from three retailers obtaining designated milks produced outside the Burgh. All the samples gave negative results.

It is estimated by information obtained from milk purveyors that the daily consumption of Certified and Tuberculin Tested milks in the town averages 1,375 gallons.

4. Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

During the year a total of 137 samples were submitted to Mr. Andrew Dargie, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Public Analyst, for his examination. Notes from Mr. Dargie's annual report to the Town Council are included in this section.

The various samples analysed were as follows:—

<i>Foods</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>
Sweet Milk	65	—
Mince (4), Sausages (4)	8	—
Whisky	12	—
Butter (4), Margarine (4)	8	—
Meats, Fish Cakes and Fish Pastes	5	1
Ice Cream	10	1
Tinned Foods	2	—
Chemicals and Medicines	8	—
Spices (1), Oils and Fats (6)	7	—
Miscellaneous: Iced Lollies, Cereals, Sauces, etc.	12	—
	<hr/> 137	<hr/> 2

MILK

The average quality of the milk supply as indicated by the results of analyses of the 65 samples was as follows:—

Water	87.33
Total Solids	12.67
Butter Fat	3.95
Solids-not-Fat	8.72
	<hr/> 100.00

All the milk samples conformed to the Sale of Milk Regulations. One milk with 11.08% of butter fat was reported as being cream.

MINCE (4), SAUSAGES (4)

The samples of mince were all free from preservatives. In sausages the amounts of sulphur dioxide were 96, 94, 48 and 76 parts per million. The total meat content varied from 68.60 to 84.23 per cent. All the samples were genuine.

WHISKY (12)

The strengths of the whiskies varied from 28.1 to 33.3 degrees under proof; all were genuine.

BUTTER (4), MARGARINE (4)

These samples were all genuine and the amounts of water present were as follows:—

Butter:	15.10%	14.98%	15.04%	15.20%
Margarine:	14.87%	14.98%	15.16%	15.07%

FISH CAKES, FISH PASTES

One test sample of fish cakes contained 29.04% of fish respectively instead of the minimum 35.00 per cent. The others satisfied the Regulations.

ICE CREAM (10)

A summary of the results of analyses is shown in the following table:—

			<i>Fat</i>	<i>Milk Solids</i>	<i>Sugar</i>
			<i>Per Cent</i>	<i>Other than Fat</i>	<i>per Cent</i>
Average ..	..	..	7.52	8.45	14.10
Maximum ..	..	..	10.64	10.12	17.85
Minimum ..	..	..	4.25	7.50	12.36

One test sample contained less than the prescribed minimum percentage of fat in terms of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953. The fat content was 4.25 per cent whereas the minimum is 5.00 per cent.

All the remaining samples not specially mentioned were found to conform to their respective standards.

PROSECUTIONS

Court proceedings were not necessary since the two samples reported by the Public Analyst to be non-genuine had been purchased for test purposes only. Nevertheless, the cases were followed up and the sellers warned concerning the infringements.

FOOD LAWS

There were no seizures of food in terms of Section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, but one trader voluntarily surrendered a hind leg of imported beef weighing 170 lbs. because of bone-taint and decomposition following de-frosting. Another 60 lbs. of the same carcase had already been discarded by the firm as unfit for human consumption before calling in this department. No administrative action was necessary in respect of the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations and the Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) Regulations. Whalemeat is seldom seen in this town and the trade in shellfish is limited to a small turnover in oysters. The Labelling of Food Order, 1953, is being met satisfactorily by most traders and fewer occasions were noted where attention had to be drawn to the requirements of the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1926, regarding the marking of imported tomatoes with the country of origin.

5. Food Premises and Hygiene

It is difficult to assess the full value of efforts to secure better handling of foodstuffs but advancement in this realm of food hygiene can be claimed by the high standard of new foodshops opened during the year and by the modern improvements that have been made at others. Better methods of preparing, handling and storing foods have been introduced at a number of food premises. New delivery vans for butcher-meat, bread, milk and general groceries also went into service for some local traders, most of whom have become fully appreciative of the value of up-to-date vehicles and equipment for the display and sale of foodstuffs.

The use of covered plastic trays for mince, sausages and cooked products, and easily cleansed shelf and table surfaces with rounded corners that cannot harbour dirt or germs, is a feature of one smart butchery unit recently introduced; provision of a sink and water supply in the vehicle adds to its usefulness as an aid to better handling of meat-food products. It is noticeable, too, that assistants in charge of such service units usually adopt a higher standard of personal hygiene and appearance in their service to the public. At one large store where extensive alterations and additions were recently completed an overnight staff, supplied with excellent floor-washing equipment, is responsible for cleaning the whole of the premises. The thoroughness with which this work is done is something to be seen to be believed. Even the refuse bins are washed regularly and they are kept in a clean, bright, airy store raised on tubular rails above floor level to offer no harbourage or shelter for vermin. Two large bakery firms have adopted a similar cleaning arrangement every afternoon when baking ceases and the cleanliness of floors, walls surfaces, tables and equipment in these establishments has reached a very high standard indeed. Head coverings are worn by most of the female assistants handling food.

One meat-food products manufacturer, whose business had far outgrown the premises he had occupied for some years, took over

and reconstructed storage premises to convert them into a modern shop and manufactory. The premises now provide ample space to conduct the business hygienically; the smooth wall and floor surfaces, better light and ventilation, stainless steel sinks, modern cooking equipment, hot water supply and separate accommodation for the manufacture and storage of cooked meats, and a large refrigerator, signify the good standard that has been attained. The shop premises are in keeping with the sale of high-quality meat products.

The Burgh's local Act requirements for food manufacturing premises were used to improve a meat pickling store rented by a local butcher, when the business was extended to include boning of beef on these premises. Again wall and floor surfaces were made impervious dustproof ceiling provided, hot water geyser installed, electric lighting, flyproof covering of windows, and a large refrigerator was installed. Early in the year, twenty-five Clean Food Posters, supplied by the Department of Health, were distributed to hotels and restaurants, mainly for display in kitchens and premises frequented by staff.

Accompanied by Mr. Alan W. Ritchie, Food Hygiene Officer for the Department of Health, visits were made to recently modernised kitchen premises of a works' canteen, a cooked meat manufactory, a model bakery, and several foodshops of old and new design. A later visit by the same Officer and another concerned particulars of the two meat transport vehicles used to deliver meat from the Abattoir to butchers' shops, and to see a new trailer unit designed by a local butcher for transporting whole carcasses of meat direct to his premises.

In some food premises, however, there are still too many tins, buckets and cartons of materials stored under tables to allow good housekeeping methods to be employed. Dust also collects on high shelves, heating pipes and beams, all of which need regular cleaning. More use could be made of vacuum cleaning equipment in food premises, and in the larger establishments, a steam sterilising unit would quickly cleanse greasy floors and equipment. Boiling water or steam is essential to deal satisfactorily with greasy surfaces. Saw dust continues to be used as a floor covering by some manufacturers and butchers; too frequently it hides an unclean surface, and its supposed non-skid properties are of doubtful value. Detergents are available to-day which not only cleanse floor surfaces but prevent them from becoming slippery. The use of readily-washed galvanised drip trays in butchers' shops would help prevent floor contamination.

During 726 routine inspections of restaurants, food shops and hotels, several verbal warnings were given regarding dirty floor surfaces. Repairs were asked to be done to walls, floors and ceilings of one butcher's shop. The occupier of a small confectionery and grocery store was advised to discontinue newspaper as a direct wrapping for unwrapped sweets and "sherbit," a powder which is licked by children from the paper bag. One shopper complained to the department,

in the absence of the shop manager, about the dirty condition of white overalls worn by assistants. Enquiry showed that the laundry had failed to call for the weekly wash. An extra pair of clean overalls for each assistant would answer such an eventuality. A householder, living near a new school, was reported to be selling sweets to school-children from the utility room of her house. This was an infringement of the house tenancy agreement and the practice was stopped. Attention was drawn to the presence of house-flies in a number of shops; spraying round window frames with insecticides, fly-proofing of windows, cleaner surroundings and covered refuse bins were some of the remedies suggested. A complaint about maggots on newly purchased boiled ham led to the discovery of fly eggs on a roll of ham. Net covering was provided in this shop and at others belonging to the same firm, but a lot of bacon, both in roll and sliced, is still openly exposed for sale in grocers' shops.

Fortunately, food poisoning cases were few in 1955 but some suspected cases were investigated. In one instance peanuts had been consumed prior to illness; bacteriological tests were negative but covered display was recommended to prevent possible contamination of the peanuts by mice. In another case a woman had developed dysentery while living in an isolated house where the spring supplying drinking water had dried up; water was being carted in containers from a nearby farm. Nothing was found to account for the illness; the containers, however, were thoroughly cleansed. This enquiry led to the discovery that a fish merchant's van was stored on the premises. The trader was advised that the place was quite unsuitable for such a trade without an adequate supply of water and later he moved to more suitable premises outside the Burgh boundary. Proof could not be obtained by analysis and test that bottled pickles consumed with a meal was the cause of illness.

The fact that food poisoning cases were few in a year of high temperatures over a long period reflects credit upon food handlers and assistants for co-operation with this department to ensure that food was prepared and sold in a clean and wholesome manner. While some shopkeepers still have to reach the high standard of hygiene expected to-day, and which may be demanded by law in the very near future, the majority aim at conditions throughout the premises in keeping with modern practice.

6. Unsound Food

During the year the following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption; wherever possible, the condemned food was used for animal feeding:—

					<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Canned Fruit	..	..	..	..	3,795	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Canned Vegetables	..	..	..	..	618	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Canned Fish	..	..	..	..	92	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Meat	..	..	..	..	4,472	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Meat and Vegetables	..	..	..	..	36	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Milk	..	..	..	..	106	8
Canned Soup	..	..	..	..	390	10
Canned Jam ..	..	..	..	..	89	8
Fresh Fruit ..	..	..	..	..	1,134	—
Fresh Vegetables	..	..	..	..	180	—
Fresh Meat ..	..	..	..	..	404	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	1,708	12
					<u>13,029</u>	<u>13$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

7. Meat

In his report, Mr. Walsh, Slaughterhouse Superintendent, provides the following statistics for 1955:—

Class of Animals	Number of Animals			Weight (in lbs.) of condemned meat and offals
	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	
Cattle	5,328	42	29	47,403
Sheep	19,554	80	26	5,091
Pigs	6,251	27	12	5,310
Poultry	898	25	—	1,287
TOTALS	32,031	174	67	59,091

The total weight of meat and offals condemned amounted to 26 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrs. 11 lbs. Sales of by-products were as follows:—

Meat and Bone Meal	..	..	11 tons	6 cwts.
Dried Blood	..	..	5 tons	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwts.
Technical Tallow	..	..	14 tons	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.

A complete inspection of all carcasses is made in accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations (Scotland), 1932 and 1948. The premises are of modern construction with hot and cold water throughout, and the easily washed surfaces make it possible to kill, dress and cool meat carcasses in clean surroundings. Measures to reduce floor contamination by blood and stomach contents during slaughter are still being sought, and further consideration has been

given to the question of whether "line" slaughter would affect an improvement. No decision has been made, and indeed the whole position of the future of the premises became obscure following publication of the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses (Scotland). However, a satisfactory reply was received later from the Department of Health for Scotland intimating that the Secretary of State would not seek to prevent the Council's Slaughterhouse remaining in operation for a period sufficiently long to justify proposed expenditure on additional lairage accommodation. In the interval, opportunity was taken to revise the plan for proposed new messrooms for slaughterhouse workers having regard to forthcoming requirements about the supply and weekly washing of protective clothing. By the end of the year a request had been made to the Council by one large slaughtering firm to consider the provision of cold storage accommodation on the premises.

Work was completed at the new Iwel plant to reduce nuisance from fumes while converting condemned meat and offals into feeding stuffs, fertilisers and technical tallow.

8. Ice Cream Premises

In terms of the Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948, the following premises and vehicles were registered by the Town Council at 31st December, 1955:—

Manufacturing Premises	..	..	13
Retail Premises .. ..	..	..	20
Retail Vehicles (Motors)	..	..	22
Retail Vehicles (Horse) ..	..	..	7
Retail Vehicles (Barrows, etc.)	..	..	12

In addition to the above, pre-wrapped ice-cream was sold in 69 premises, including shops, cinemas and places of entertainment.

Visits to registered premises totalled 88. On the whole, a reasonably good standard of cleanliness of premises and equipment prevailed but in one instance conditions generally were found to be unsatisfactory. A thorough cleaning of plant and equipment was enforced and floor surfaces also demanded more frequent attention. The limited space at some premises necessitated several requests that materials not concerned with the manufacture of ice-cream should be stored elsewhere. Plans were approved for the reconstruction of fairly new ice-cream manufacturing premises to make the preparation room adjoin the washing-up room; experience had shown the present arrangement caused unnecessary handling of plant and equipment. Proposals to extend ice-cream manufacturing premises, in course of alteration, to include confectionery, wafer and chocolate manufacturing processes, were also approved.

Seventeen samples of ice-cream were subjected to bacteriological examination; of these, seven samples failed to comply with prescribed

standards, six of the samples produced a positive reaction for coliform tests, colony counts were "uncountable" in four samples where B.Coli was also present, two samples were low in colony counts but positive for coliform, and one sample showed only a high bacterial count. Investigation followed all these unsatisfactory results. Temperature tests revealed that cooling arrangements were inefficient in one case, and when this was adjusted the "mix" was slow to go over the cooler; the recipe was altered slightly to ensure a more free-flowing mixture. A breakdown of refrigeration plant was the cause of unsatisfactory test results from another manufactory.

Altogether seven rinsings from ice-cream plants and equipment were taken following high bacterial counts, to ascertain the cause. These included strainers, receiving pails, cooler, freezers, and ageing vat. While it was not possible in every case to discover the cause of the bad results, it was noted that efficient cleaning and sterilisation of all utensils usually brought about improvement.

9. Shops Act

The Shops Acts are designed primarily to ensure reasonable working conditions for shop workers; they cover such matters as hours of closing, weekly half-holiday, suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation and washing facilities, adequate heating, limited hours of work for young persons, power to suspend hours of closing on certain occasions and the exhibition of notices by occupiers.

To ensure compliance with the various requirements visits to shops numbered 800; altogether 28 letters or notices were sent to occupiers drawing attention to infringements which had been discovered or reported. These referred to insufficient or unsuitable sanitary accommodation, 8; W.C.s in need of painting or repair, 8; inadequate heating, 1; non-exhibition of notices required, 8; and failure to close at the proper hours, 3. All these matters were receiving attention or had been complied with by the end of the year.

Variations of shop hours were granted on two occasions for a week when exhibitions were combined with the display and sale of goods. Advice was given to several occupiers of new shops regarding the alternative arrangements available for the day of the weekly half-holiday, which can be either Wednesday or Saturday.

"Mixed" shop notices were issued to all shops found open on Wednesday afternoons, where various kinds of goods are sold. Three shopkeepers in new housing areas were warned about selling non-exempted goods after 1 p.m. on Wednesdays, and similar warnings were given to three mobile shop owners in respect of Wednesday afternoon sales, and about trading after the prescribed evening closing hours. One travelling drapery firm advertised Thursday instead of Wednesday as the day of the shop weekly half-holiday, but changed immediately attention was directed to a possible offence. Several

shopkeepers were warned about failing to display "mixed" shops notices while the premises were open after normal closing hours to sell exempted goods. The Town Council decided not to proceed with the making of an Order extending the provisions of Section I (6) of the Shops Act, 1950, to shops selling by retail intoxicating liquors for consumption off the premises; only 23 of the 37 voting papers issued to licenced grocers were returned by the date fixed by the Committee.

Nine new shops were opened during the year; two houses were converted into shops and alterations and extensions completed at 28 shops; new or additional sanitary accommodation was installed at 23 shops. Plans were approved for the erection of new shops in place of those to be demolished in Links Street. Shops in the Burgh total 771.

10. Places of Public Refreshment

Registered premises totalled 33, some 6 less than in the previous year; 67 inspections took place. The bye-laws cover such matters as hours of opening and closing, adequate lighting and sanitary accommodation. All the premises were found to be clean and well conducted. There is limited space in some of the premises. No infringements of the bye-laws were discovered or reported but minor improvements were suggested in several cases. Plans were approved for alterations and additions at 5 places and for the provision of 4 W.C.s.

GENERAL SANITATION

11. Nuisance and Sanitary Defects

During the year 441 complaints were received from members of the public and 49 nuisances and sanitary defects were discovered by the Inspectors in the course of their duties. Some of the alleged nuisances did not warrant action by the department; about 299 complaints were remedied immediately on being brought to the attention of the parties concerned. The abatement of nuisances necessitated 1,470 inspections and revisits. There were 113 intimations and notices served in terms of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, and the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892. Several minor infringements of the Kirkcaldy Burgh Extension, &c. Order Confirmation Act, 1950, were also brought to the notice of owners and occupiers.

The following table shows the number and type of nuisances dealt with during the year:—

1.	Dirty houses and premises cleaned	..	..	16
2.	Dirty W.C. apartments cleansed	..	..	2
3.	Dirty stairs and passages cleaned	..	..	7
4.	Dirty areas and courts cleaned	..	..	8
5.	Verminous houses sprayed and fumigated	..	..	3
6.	Other verminous conditions remedied	..	..	54
7.	Dampness in houses abated or improved	..	..	69
8.	Defective sinks repaired or renewed	..	..	3
9.	Defective water closets repaired or renewed	..	..	17
10.	Defective rhones, waste pipes, etc., repaired	..	..	23
11.	Choked sinks, tubs and water closets cleared	..	..	1
12.	Choked drains and traps cleared	..	..	48
13.	Accumulations of rubbish removed	..	..	14
14.	Accumulations of manure removed	..	..	3
15.	Staircases and passages (limewashed or painted)			11
16.	Keeping of hens, dogs, cats, dirty	..	..	8
17.	Miscellaneous nuisances	..	..	203
				<hr/>
				490
				<hr/>

Nuisances of various kinds increased by forty to 490 compared with 1954. Complaints about dampness in houses decreased sharply, however, which may have been influenced by the long dry summer and also by the fact that many old houses have been recently closed. For no apparent reason some cases of long-standing dampness actually worsened during the year; in one house walls failed to dry up satisfactorily although remedial works had been carried out. Choked drainage at one property involved six separate owners, some of whom were also occupiers. This case caused flooding of the solum under the house, which had to be pumped out to reduce nuisance. Later clean ashes were spread under the floor and the area treated with disinfectants. The buchan trap on the drainage system was found to be choked and seepage therefrom had travelled through electric pipe cable holes in the main wall to under the floor.

Dirty houses requiring to be cleansed numbered 16; in one case of an old woman living alone there was an accumulation of rubbish, bottles and tins; it was found necessary to seek the assistance of relatives to have the house cleaned. Live hens were found being kept in tenement house prior to slaughter; while nuisance was being caused, main complaint referred to noise and the practice ceased on the department's intervention. Dog nuisance on pavements and drying greens is a common cause of complaint which is not easily rectified; the keeping of dogs and cats in tenements also causes annoyance to occupiers when fouling of stairs and closes occurs. Uncovered ash-buckets put out on the street or entrance at night not only attract animals and vermin but often lead to unsightliness by spillage.

Dumping of household refuse and garden rubbish took place at several vacant sites throughout the town and on parts of the foreshore. Nuisance of this kind should not arise when a twice-weekly refuse service is given. Soot is also dumped on waste land. Uneven ground near Seafeld is being filled in and levelled with builders' refuse to form a yard; this place had become unsightly in recent years through indiscriminate dumping of rubbish. A local firm was asked to improve a quarry site used for depositing industrial wastes; trees will be planted to screen the area from nearby houses and fencing is also proposed to prevent unknown persons tipping refuse. One owner was advised to erect a notice prohibiting the dumping of rubbish in a private lane. Dust nuisance was created in the Links when demolitions commenced and a spray of water was recommended. Unfortunately this had to be discontinued later when water restrictions were imposed.

Spraying of beaches and round manure pits of piggeries and stables with insecticides reduced fly nuisance in summer to some extent; the need for cleaner surroundings at some premises was apparent. A horse-keeper was asked to remove manure twice-weekly to reduce complaints of flies and smell; the premises were swept down and limewashed. The dungstead at a dairy farm, now surrounded by new houses, was found to be faulty in construction and causing offence. Another site for storing manure is to be provided. More insecticides should be used by all keepers of livestock and by fish-mongers, butchers and others to control infestation by flies; likely breeding grounds should also be treated regularly. It is noticeable that clean, well-ventilated premises seldom harbour insect pests.

Household pests requiring attention this year included the golden spider beetle, *Niptus Hololeucus*, an insect that can feed on almost anything such as wool, linen or silk, cereal products, any goods of animal origin, particularly attacking articles soiled by grease, and they will scavenge on dead insects, feathers, mouse droppings and wastes of all kinds. Both adults and larvae feed and are capable, therefore, of doing damage. This pest is more common than is generally supposed, though serious damage by its presence has not been discovered locally. In the scrupulously clean house where golden spider beetle was first identified the complaint was about finding the insects on walls at night rather than by any damage caused by them. They generally resist destruction by ordinary insecticides, but lindane-pyrethrum solutions are usually effective against them, if continued for some time. The carcasses of a bird and mouse were found under the floor of the house concerned and these might have been the original food attractions for the pests. This infestation is now under control but not eliminated; the position is the same in a few other houses where golden spider infestation was found. A large spider which had been killed in a house near a fruit store was thought to be a young tarantula, imported with bananas, and small insects found among furniture and furnishings that had been stored in a damp house for over two months were identified by a specialist as psocids

of the booklice variety, pests that favour damp surroundings. Treatment was required at one house badly infested with fleas. One householder was concerned about insects in his larder thought to be wood beetles but an entomologist identified them as the bean weevil *Acanthoselides obtectus*. When the house was visited and the nature of the infestation explained it was found that an aged packet of dried peas was the cause of the trouble. Black beetles and woodworm complaints were fairly general throughout the year; householders were advised to make full use of modern insecticides and dusts now on the market. Supplies of insecticides were also issued, by the department, where necessary.

Complaints of maggots dropping from the ceiling of an institution led to the discovery that feathers were lying in a roof ventilator. It was recommended the ventilator should be cleaned out and as this presented difficulty it was suggested that vacuum suction of some kind be used. A local builder with an electric chimney sweeping outfit was employed and several carcasses of young pigeons were sucked out by the machine to end the nuisance.

The two local flour mills received the annual fumigation treatment by a specialist firm to control insects throughout the premises and mice were reduced in numbers at the same time. At one flour mill flour dust discharge through open windows caused some offence to nearby householders and created unsightliness to walls of a high building. Vacuum cleaners are used in the premises to avoid dust nuisance but when windows are opened it is difficult to avoid some escape of fine flour dust. Cork dust was also escaping in excess from a factory near the Abattoir; a machine adjustment rectified the matter.

Smells from an industrial process abated when special equipment was provided at the Slaughterhouse to sterilise fumes from the Iwel plant, used for converting condemned meat into saleable products. Sickly smells from a grain-drying plant also caused complaint; wet cattle cake and water damaged ground nuts were being dried as an emergency service. The firm stated that no further attempts at drying damaged goods would be made. Nuisances of various kinds arose at the Gas Works, some of which referred to the excessive discharge of dust, grit and fumes from the manufacturing plants mentioned in another part of this report. Several justifiable complaints concerned grit and dust nuisance caused when stock-piling coal and coke, and from the coke plant itself. Water sprays and screens were used at the coal pile in an endeavour to abate the nuisance, sometimes without success. Smoke from smouldering shop waste on top of hot ashes from the Gas Works boiler plant caused offence at nearby shops, and the escape of tar liquor from an underground tank through the sea wall continued to foul the foreshore. Measures were in hand to empty and reline the underground tar liquor tank. A sample of the liquor, collected from the foreshore, was submitted to the Public Analyst, who confirmed it was Gas Works residue, and not from a leaking sewer.

Few complaints of nuisance arose during the period of the Links Market and cleansing arrangements worked satisfactorily; altogether 301 vans were inspected. No further progress could be made with the proposed caravan site for holidaymakers at Pathhead Sands since sewerage works are still incomplete in the area. Public lavatories have been provided near this popular beach to be opened next summer. Additional lavatories have also been completed at Ravenscraig and Beveridge Parks to serve the holiday visitors. Fewer campers were noted this year and cannot be encouraged at uncontrolled sites. Some caravans still winter in yards, where conditions are not entirely satisfactory.

Inspections to common stairs, passages, courts and wash-houses totalled 207; altogether 22 notices were served in respect of 16 properties; limewashing or painting was completed at 11 common passages, 11 staircases and 3 wash-houses; work was outstanding at 6 common passages, 2 staircases and 6 wash-houses. Altogether 130 inspections were made to piggeries; several pigkeepers were asked to keep premises, food troughs and surroundings cleaner and overdue limewashing was requested in several cases. Some pigkeepers prefer to wash down smooth cement walls with hot water and soda occasionally in place of limewashing, which becomes readily fouled soon after the work is completed.

12. Rats and Mice

The following information was included in the annual report sent to the Department of Agriculture for the year ending December, 1955.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (Part I)

I. LOCAL AUTHORITY'S CONTROL ORGANISATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ACT.

The Sanitary Inspector is the authorised officer responsible for the administration of the statute and a staff of five inspectors share in these duties. To increase efficiency of the service a full-time pest destruction operator started employment in March, 1955.

II. GENERAL DIRECTIONS OR DECISIONS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AS TO THE WORK OF THE CONTROL ORGANISATION.

A complete Rats and Mice Destruction service now operates within the Burgh and routine nuisance investigations by Sanitary staff includes rodent control. Charges are imposed on all business firms for rat or mice destruction; a free service is given to householders.

III. MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE DISCOVERY, PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY'S AREA.

Generally, local industries do not encourage rats or mice but more complaints of vermin were reported this year and block treatments were increased to 8, covering 247 dwelling houses or their appurtenants and 14 shops. One Council institution outside the Burgh boundary had a heavy infestation of rats and mice and needed prolonged treatment. Periodically press advertisement reminds occupiers to report infestations of either rats or mice. Ten letters were sent to firms advising them of the Council's Rat Destruction Service, and two have used it with successful results.

IV. MEASURES TAKEN REGARDING PROPERTIES SPECIALLY LIABLE TO INFESTATION IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY'S AREA.

The full-time operator allowed sewer work to start again; some 141 manholes were treated, destroying about 846 rats. One large flour milling and malting firm controls infestation by weekly treatment with own staff. Corporation refuse dumps are treated at three-monthly periods. Heavy kills were not recorded. Burgh farms are few and trapping and poisoning took place before two steadings were partially demolished for housing development. Farmers were reminded of their obligation to destroy rats and mice. Rats were reduced in one area following the demolition of a small sewage works. The abattoir remained free from vermin. Mice complaints are increasing.

V. ACTION (IF ANY) TAKEN UNDER THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS (APPLICATION TO SHIPPING) ORDER, 1951.

Coastal shipping to and from the port is not of a kind likely to encourage rats and mice being mainly cement, linoleum, cork and some general cargoes. One small rat infestation was successfully treated at Harbour buildings. Five vessels were inspected for presence of rats or mice. Fumigation is carried out regularly at home ports; certificates were in order.

VI. GENERAL.

No legal proceedings were instituted under the Act. The employment of a full-time operator has increased the efficiency of the service within the Burgh resulting in a known total kill of 1,482 rats and 889 mice. Income for services rendered amounted to £87 1s. 8d. A request to clear out a small "pocket" of rabbits has been received and means to reduce pigeons at one place are being tried. All properties under III of Table were cleared by Local Authority.

TABLE

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority Properties	Dwelling Houses	Business or Industrial Premises	Agricultural Properties	Total
I. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1955 as a result of notification or otherwise	31	362	32	9	434
II. Number of above properties found to be infested by rats or mice	14	111	19	8	152
III. Number of above infested properties cleared to the satisfaction of the Local Authority :—					
(1) As separate units	13	91	16	3	123
(2) In course of "block" operations carried out under Section 6 (1) or under informal arrangements	—	10	2	—	12
Number of "block" operations carried out = 8					
TOTAL	13	101	18	3	135
IV. Number of notices served under Section 4	Nil	—	—	—	—
V. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	Nil	—	—	—	—
VI. Number of notices issued under Section 6 (2)	Nil	—	—	—	—
VII. Number of ships treated ..	Nil				
VIII. Number of Rodent Control Certificates issued	Nil.				

13. Infectious Diseases

Work connected with infectious diseases called for investigations into 360 cases comprising—scarlet fever, 35; gastro-enteritis, 120; infective jaundice, 18; dysentery, 154; food poisoning, 17; diphtheria, 1; infective hepatitis, 13; malaria, 1; and not diagnosed, 1. Advice was given in all cases of the best means to prevent spread of infection and disinfection was carried out where considered necessary. Personal clothing was disinfected and a certificate granted to a person who was visiting friends in Poland.

A report was sent to the Medical Officer of Health on all cases investigated and intimation of the occurrence of infectious disease was notified to headmasters of local schools in 180 instances.

14. Water

The Water Engineer reported that rainfall recorded at Lothrie for 1955 was 27.15 inches being equivalent to 73.58 per cent of the long average rainfall. Deficiency of rainfall was 9.75 inches. Monthly rainfall was below average each month with the exception of May and December. The driest month was August when 0.83 inches were recorded and the wettest month was December when 5.95 inches fell. The period 1st January to 30th November, during which time 21.20 inches were recorded, was the driest eleven months experienced in the history of the undertaking since rainfall records were started in 1881. If it had not been for the exceptionally heavy rainfall during December, 1955 would have been the driest year on record.

The levels of the reservoirs, which were at full capacity in April, 1955, dropped steadily throughout the summer and autumn until 10th December when the quantity of water in storage was 255.6 million gallons, a loss of 744 million gallons. Whilst it is quite normal for the levels to fall during the summer, it is usual to expect a steady gain from October onwards. No difficulty was experienced in maintaining the supply within the area, but as a precautionary measure, restrictions on the use of water were applied on 26th November, and these were still in force at the end of the year. The Town Council also agreed that work on the new borehole supply should be speeded up as much as possible so that this water would be available to augment the Burgh's needs at the earliest opportunity.

Model bye-laws for the prevention of pollution of water supplies, prepared by the Department of Health for Scotland, were adopted by the Town Council subject to minor amendments proposed by the officials. It was also agreed by Water Order to extend the Burgh water mains to supply water to a cottar house near the Burgh boundary and Invertiel Farm immediately outside the boundary and within the area of the County Council. These premises have depended on wells and springs in the past, one of which was of doubtful purity.

Few complaints were received about quantity or quality of water supplied to dwelling-houses. One owner was notified of the poor pressure of water at his property, especially when downstairs tenants used water taps at the same time as those upstairs. An excessive chlorine taste and smell from drinking water in different parts of the town was rectified when brought to the attention of the Water Department. At one house where the water supply came through a storage cistern this was found to be in an unwholesome condition. Thorough cleansing of the cistern remedied the complaint. Five samples of drinking water were tested to ensure wholesome quality; in all but one case the results were satisfactory. At the Council's property at Balbarton in the County area, two workmen's houses depend on a well for water supply; chemical and bacteriological analysis of samples of water from a nearby spring, which was proposed to be used to augment the supply, were reported upon unfavourably. The well supply failed for one day during the long dry summer, but it will be used to its limit of capacity when the houses are modernised soon. County water mains may be extended to the area in due course.

In extension of port health administration, three samples of drinking water were drawn from ships' tanks for bacteriological examination. All failed to give satisfactory results and the owners were advised to have the tanks cleaned and flushed. The same advice was given when a sample of drinking water was examined from the National Coal Board's boring tower situated in the River Forth off Kirkcaldy. A follow-up sample showed that cleaning out the water tanks had been successful.

15. Factories

There were 310 mechanical and 59 non-mechanical factories on the register at the end of the year, a slight decrease compared with 1954. In addition, 15 other premises came under supervision by Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937; no outworkers were registered. Inspections totalled 394, mainly in relation to cleanliness and sanitary accommodation. Thirty-five visits were made to bakehouses regarding washing down or limewashing of wall surfaces.

The attention of occupiers of factories was drawn to 6 cases where sanitary accommodation was insufficient, and in 10 cases where it was unsuitable or defective. One case of an unscreened W.C. in an open shed was reported to the Health Committee before the occupier took action to provide suitable accommodation. Toilets at a garage were also found to be improperly ventilated and not regularly cleansed. All the above defects were remedied. Five intimations of sanitary defects found at factories were referred to the Local Authority by H.M. Inspector of Factories. These were also rectified.

Plans were submitted for examination and report in respect of alterations, extensions, and for new or improved sanitary accommodation at 25 factories and for 3 new factories.

16. Lodging-Houses

Although the two lodging-houses for men at Birrell Street Wynd and Mid Street are outwith the registration requirements of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, nine inspections were made to ensure that a reasonable standard of cleanliness was maintained. The buildings generally are in need of extensive repairs and are in such a state that they would be closed if alternative accommodation could be found for the boarders. Some small repairs were done, including replacement of broken window frames. Four persons and bedding were found to be verminous and in one instance a shortage of sheets and pillow-cases was noted. Plans for factory extension involving the site of one lodging-house have been prepared so that a limited life prevails over one building. It is likely that some further action will be needed soon by the Town Council to deal with this somewhat difficult question of better accommodation for the inmates.

An average of twenty men reside at each house, many of whom are old-age pensioners without relatives in the town.

17. Smoke, Grit and Fumes

In an endeavour to reduce smoke pollution in the burgh, 86 observations of chimneys at 21 factories were recorded in 1955; 31 of the observations showed excessive discharge of smoke covering 7 industrial undertakings. Five of the offending installations were steam-raising coal-fired boilers and the other two were incinerators used for the burning of industrial wastes. Thirty-four inspections of boiler-house plant and steam-raising installations were carried out. In seven instances warning letters were sent regarding excessive discharge of smoke; while some improvement was noted thereafter, it cannot be said that a permanent remedy has been found in some cases. A shortage of skilled stokers exists in the area which makes it difficult for firms to replace staff when regular employees are off ill; this was the cause of smoke nuisance in two cases. It is noticeable in most boiler-houses that the attendant is unable to keep the top of the chimney under observation himself from the firing floor. One firm was asked to provide a roof-light in the boiler house for this purpose; a marked improvement in smoke emission occurred when this was done. The services of N.I.F.E.S. experts was asked in two cases, and following their visits a change of fuel affected a reduction of smoke from both places. With regard to the excessive discharge of smoke from a work's incinerator, the firm agreed to reduce the amount of industrial waste being consumed at this plant. One firm enquired about fuel saving equipment and automatic stokers to overcome smoke difficulties and labour shortage; helpful information was passed to them. Smoke emission stopped altogether at one factory, which is now powered by electricity; another small factory, whose chimney often belched smoke, was demolished this year in course of building extensions. A trained assistant in the department spent nine hours on the firing floor of one factory demonstrating approved methods of hand-stoking to attendants and how to prevent production of smoke. The Ringelmann Smoke

Chart method of estimating the density of smoke issuing from a factory chimney is the one now used by the department; colour estimation is much more easily made with the use of this chart.

Early in the year, the Health Committee decided to have a meeting with local industrialists to bring about voluntary efforts to reduce smoke from factory chimneys, but in view of possible Government legislation soon on the matter, no further action was taken. Nevertheless, the subject was kept to the forefront, including the need for more satisfactory control of fumes from motor vehicles. The local public transport operators were asked on two occasions to give greater supervision to the maintenance of diesel-engined vehicles operating throughout the town. Drivers were also asked to co-operate to prevent the unnecessary discharge of fumes near ground level. Smoke, grit and fumes from the Gas Works again caused many complaints during the year. Nuisance arose from three sources, namely, grit and smoke from the steam boiler plant, smoke, fumes and possibly some fine dust from the Tully Gas Plant, and, more recently, grit and dust from stock-piling of coal and coke. Efforts have been made by Gas Board officials to rectify plant and equipment to avoid complaints, but the position still remained unsatisfactory, except that when coke was used in the Tully Gas Plant instead of coal, nuisance from smoke and fumes was considerably modified.

On the commercial and domestic side of smoke abatement seventeen defects at domestic chimneys were remedied after investigation following eighteen complaints from citizens. The desire for a clean, pure atmosphere by the general public is becoming most apparent when investigating or discussing smoke complaints, and much is expected from new legislation by persons living in areas subjected to smoke pollution. The chimney from a hut near the Railway Goods Yard caused offence because of its low level and an improvement took place when the chimney was heightened. Modern methods of heating by gas and electricity were extended to more shops and offices, but banking of coal fires at night at some other premises still caused annoyance to nearby residents. An oil-fired heating system gave excellent results at one new school; it is understood this form of heating may be installed at all new schools in this area. Improvements to a coal-fired sectional boiler at an existing school brought about a saving in fuel but the draught necessary to operate the system created nuisance from fly-ash discharge and some grit. A remedy is being sought. Domestic heating by coal, even with all the modern fireplaces installed by the Town Council at new housing areas, leaves much to be desired so far as atmospheric pollution is concerned. A permanent remedy will not be found until smokeless fuels are in general use along with gas and electricity for heating and cooking purposes.

18. Burial Grounds

Supervision and management of the three main burial grounds in the Burgh, Kirkcaldy, Hayfield and Dysart, is undertaken by the Parks Department. These cemeteries are maintained in excellent

condition. Of the five old burying grounds, four are also maintained by the Town Council. Only one of them, Abbotshall Churchyard, is used to any extent. All the grounds were found to be tidy. More frequent grass cutting was done at the old burying grounds to improve amenity and paths also received attention.

The erection of a Crematorium at Dunnikier Park is likely to start next year.

19. Rivers Pollution

The East Burn, which drains agricultural land in its upper reaches and passes through urban parts of the town, is contaminated shortly before it reaches the sea with industrial waste from a paper felt factory. The pollution causes the water to be dirty and smelly in warm weather. The low rainfall worsened the condition of this water course in summer and autumn to such an extent that the firm responsible for trade waste discharge was asked to flush the burn with clean water in an effort to remove the suspended matter that had settled on the burn bed due to the sluggish flow. Very little improvement occurred until heavy rains came in December. When this trade waste is diverted into the new sewerage system next year the East Burn should become a clear flowing stream again. The Tiel Burn remained comparatively free from reed growth and no serious pollution of this water course was noted.

Sewage from the Dysart and Kirkcaldy main sewers discharges into the River Forth without treatment except that comminutors operate on the sewer discharging at Pathhead Sands. These fitments have removed the gross contamination occasionally seen on nearby beaches, but depending on wind and tide other parts of the foreshore sometimes show evidence of sewage pollution. Two samples of sea water submitted for chemical and bacteriological analysis in connection with a proposed outdoor bathing pool near Ravenscraig Park, were reported upon adversely. Inshore pollution should be modified considerably, however, when the main drainage scheme for this area is completed. Samples of water from a tributary of the East Burn were also reported upon unfavourably, due to livestock pollution near the Burgh boundary and possible slight sewage pollution beyond. Industrial waste from the Gas Works seeping through the sea-wall at Esplanade opposite the premises recurred again. Efforts are being made by the Gas Board to repair the leaking underground liquor tank. It may be some time before this contamination is entirely eliminated.

Negotiations are still proceeding to reduce and ultimately eliminate the serious pollution of the foreshore at Dysart by colliery washery waste from the Frances Pit. New refuse tipping arrangements from the colliery have been discussed but as was stated in previous reports, it may take a long time to restore Dysart beach to its former condition.

Local bye-laws were confirmed in October for seashore and strand to prevent the throwing or depositing on the foreshore of paper, glass,

bottles, rubbish, refuse or filth. Solid refuse from any manufactory, or rubbish, cork dust, or other waste matter, is also prevented from being put into the waters of the Forth. Under the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) (Scotland) Act, 1951, an Order is in course of being prepared appointing a day from which the provisions of the Act shall apply to the tidal water of the Firth of Forth.

20. Schools, Cinemas, Public Buildings and Dance Halls

Fifty-one visits were made to schools, including a general inspection of all sanitary accommodation, so that a report could be submitted through the Medical Officer to the Education Department on all matters requiring attention. Defects found referred to missing W.C. seats, damaged doors at conveniences, leaking cisterns and defective concrete floors. The bad arrangement of staff sanitary accommodation at a temporary school was noted and better facilities for dish-washing after the service of school meals was suggested. The poorly drained and rutted condition of one playground was advised to be improved, since wet weather conditions made the area almost unuseable. Complaints of offensive smells at one school led to the discovery of a number of cats on the premises. The smells ceased when the floors were washed and disinfected. Plans were approved for two new schools in a large housing area and for additional classrooms at three other schools.

Joint inspection was made by Corporation officials to six cinemas and thirty-four other buildings used for public entertainment, and a report was submitted to the Magistrates before grant of renewal licences. A good standard of cleanliness, ventilation, and repair prevailed at all these places and only a few minor defects were asked to be remedied. To ensure adequate air movement and comfort conditions for patrons in cinemas, twenty-two temperature and Kata thermometer tests were carried out during performances, mainly in evenings. Following the tests, small adjustments were made to heating and ventilation installations at two cinemas to bring about a more comfortable atmosphere. In warm weather ventilation by open windows at dance halls often cause complaints about noise. Mechanical ventilation was improved satisfactorily at one dance hall and windows were sealed with glass bricks on the wall near dwelling-houses. A total of sixty-two visits were made to dance halls, cinemas and similar buildings in 1955.

21. Offices

Ninety-six inspections were made to offices this year; all were found to be clean and had toilet facilities sufficient for the staff employed. The demand for office accommodation continued. A number of houses above shops in the central business part of the town were converted for office purposes, a procedure which will likely continue since this part of the town is scheduled for commercial development.

Plans were examined for the erection of two new offices and for extensions and alterations at three others.

22. Public Cleansing

The Cleansing Department is responsible for the collection and removal of house refuse and salvage, street cleansing, refuse disposal and the supervision of public conveniences. After allowing for revenue of £6,124 the cost of all the services amounted to £43,416 for the year ending 15th May, 1955. This worked out at 17/2 per head of the population. It cost 30/4 to collect and dispose of a ton of refuse. Because of difficulty in recruiting suitable and sufficient labour, a full staff could not be maintained regularly throughout the year but the service functioned with few complaints. A wages dispute in the department caused refuse collections to be stopped for three days in June; loudspeaker vans were sent round the town to warn occupiers that refuse would not be collected. A motor refuse collector fleet of eleven vehicles is employed and a mechanical sweeper-collector and a gully emptier assist with street cleansing work.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A thrice-weekly service is maintained in the main parts of the town and at all new houses built since the war a twice-weekly service is given. Salvage, including waste paper, tins, textiles and empty glass containers, is collected by salvage trailers attached to the collection vehicles, or in a special compartment of the vehicle itself. A scheme to reorganise the service once the department moves to centralised premises at Denburn was approved whereby a twice-weekly collection of house refuse will operate throughout the whole Burgh as soon as possible and, likewise, a separate weekly collection of waste paper and other salvage will be introduced. Garden rubbish was also upsetting normal refuse collection arrangements and means to reduce output of this type of rubbish was under consideration. Much of this material could be returned to the soil by householders, in the form of compost, to aid fertility. The refuse chute system functioned satisfactorily at the block of multi-storey flats at Valley Gardens, which were opened in June. The new bulk-loading vehicle, designed to dustlessly load the large modern-type galvanised containers at the flats, also gave efficient service. The containers are removed from the dust chamber at the base of the refuse chutes to the waiting vehicle by special jack-trolley. A once-weekly refuse collection was extended to the Council's Abden Home, about a mile outwith the Burgh boundary; covered galvanised bins were introduced for refuse storage at the premises and an ashpit was discontinued.

The Council's arrangements for the collection of "Trade Refuse" went into full operation in May by which time most of the traders in the town had joined the scheme. Notice was sent to each trader giving the days and approximate times calls would be made, and bins or bundles were asked to be placed on the pavement about 15 minutes before collection, to avoid delay of transport through the main shopping areas. Bulky refuse like cartons, packing materials and similar wastes are collected in this way for disposal by sorting and incineration. Dust, ashes and floor sweepings from shops are lifted twice weekly

when ordinary house refuse collections are being made. These new arrangements made a distinct improvement in the appearance of the High Street on collection days and the work was speeded up, although the number of stationary vehicles on main streets is causing increased "carry" for refuse collectors when the cleansing vehicle cannot draw up at the kerb-side, opposite the respective premises.

STREET CLEANSING

Whilst the motor sweeper-collector is useful aid to street cleansing, this branch of the service depends mainly on manual labour for keeping the streets clean and tidy. Staff shortages and changing personnel upset the regular frequency of duty in some districts although on the whole a fairly good standard of street cleansing was maintained. The long period of dry weather this year, however, did not improve the appearance of pavements and roads and the occasional heavy showers experienced often gave these surfaces the first clean wash for many months. When street surfaces were damp, opportunity was taken to mechanically wash some main thoroughfares, a method which is superior in many ways to brush sweeping alone. One complaint referred to litter nuisance on main streets on Saturday afternoons; some additional litter bins were installed and others are under consideration. The large number of litter bins provided throughout the town over a year ago were used by the public but much more use could be made of them, especially at week-ends. Throughout the year advertisement was made in the local press requesting the co-operation of the public to avoid litter on the streets. While some improvement was noted near the High Street 'bus stops and elsewhere, less litter would be seen if care was taken by citizens and visitors to use the receptacles provided for the purpose.

Two snowstorms had to be dealt with during the winter, one in January and the other the following month when a heavier fall over several days accompanied by frost necessitated continuous clearance during the day and after normal working hours. Hired vehicles and labour, mainly building trade employees, were brought in to assist; the prolonged periods of snow and ice made progress slow and on several occasions work on some main streets had to be repeated when fresh snow falls occurred. The heavy gritting of streets during frosty weather resulted in much additional street cleansing and washing of surfaces for some weeks afterwards.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The total quantity of refuse and street sweepings deposited at the two disposal points—Balbarton and Gallatown—was estimated to be 19,818 tons, an increase of nearly 1,000 tons over the previous year. Having regard to trade, builders' refuse, ashes and soil tipped at Gallatown Quarry to help in the formation of terracing for the proposed sports stadium there, about 22,650 tons of material was placed in Corporation tips in 1955. Quarterly weighings of house refuse collected are made each year. Negotiations to acquire additional

land for tipping at Gallatown continued; it is likely that agreement will be reached in the coming year. The need for extra space to form terracing on the east side of this tip is urgent if the best use is to be made of it for recreational purposes in the future. The acquisition of mechanical plant to assist with the consolidation of the refuse as it is built upwards at Gallatown was delayed for one year. The dry, sunny weather caused outbreaks of fire at both refuse tips in the late summer, an experience which has not arisen for many years. While spontaneous combustion and "hot" refuse from certain kinds of stoves was a possible cause of some outbreaks, the fact that fires occurred at week-ends when unauthorised persons were seen on the refuse tips, was not without significance. Complaints of smell from the burning material did arise at Gallatown. Smothering of the fires with solid C.O.² reduced the nuisance and arrested the spread but care is needed since tipping space is limited and covering material, to exclude air from the tip face, is in short supply.

Salvage recovery continued at the refuse tips, including cardboard, tins and scrap metals. It was noted that increasing quantities of waste paper were being mixed with refuse causing much saleable material to be lost. The scheme for accepting loose tins from neighbouring authorities for baling in the Corporation's baling press worked satisfactorily; an increased tonnage was handled this year. Except for some materials where prices were depressed the market for salvage continued to be good, particularly for wire-baled waste paper, compressed tins and other metals. The centralised premises for the Cleansing Department at Denburn Yard, under reconstruction for some time to provide a large garage, workshops and stores, petrol service station and offices, neared completion and should be ready for occupation early in 1956. The buildings will include a small incinerator for disposal of abnoxious material and modern mechanical plant to handle waste paper and tins.

A scheme to modernise the two cottages at Balbarton, occupied by the refuse disposal workers, was prepared. The works proposed include installation of bathrooms, hot water supply, and electric light.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The new convenience for men and women at Pathhead Sands was completed at the end of September, a little too late to be of use for the crowds that throng this foreshore each summer. The convenience will be opened in future from April till October. The completion of the new convenience at Golden Gates, Dunnikier, was delayed due to extensive damage to the fabric while in course of construction. To ensure that such vandalism could not occur again an additional expenditure of £250 was approved for cutting down and lopping trees nearby to open up the site, lowering level of ground all round the building, provision of a high fence at rear and metal guards on windows. A suitable site has not yet been secured for the erection of conveniences at Templehall. The new conveniences were completed at Ravens-

craig and Beveridge Parks to meet the needs of summer visitors to these popular places. The premises near the junction of Cairns Street and St. Clair Street, earmarked for conversion into modern public conveniences, are now vacant. Plans are in hand for this work and for an extension of the Victoria Road convenience to provide accommodation for women.

No full-time attendants are employed, the nine cleaners being responsible for the cleanliness of a number of lavatories daily. From May next year conveniences in the public parks and nearby foreshores will return to control of the Parks Department so that direct supervision can be given when large gatherings of people visit these open spaces on Saturdays and Sundays. Most conveniences have to stand an excessive amount of wear and tear due to malicious damage and carelessness and often there are justified complaints of fouling, when constant supervision is not available. Lavatory money locks are fairly frequently tampered with for the few pence they may contain; new type locks now being fitted, however, have reduced pilfering and damage to a considerable extent.

The money collected from public convenience locks throughout the town, including parks premises supervised by cleansing staff, totalled £744 0s. 0d. for the year ending 15th May, 1955, an increase of £88 0s. 0d. over the previous year.

23. Sewers and Drains

The supervision of sewers and the testing of all new drainage is the responsibility of the Burgh Engineer's Department. Defects at existing drains are dealt with by the Sanitary Department. Joint inspections take place when both departments are concerned with the repair or improvement of a defective drainage system and when septic tanks are involved outwith the main drainage areas.

Despite the long dry, warm summer and autumn few complaints of smells from sewer manholes or street gullies were received. It was only at Links Street where extra flushing of sewers had to be done; here the position was probably aggravated to some extent by the discharge of Gas Works effluent into the sewers at high tide, when the wind was from the east. No defect in the sewerage system was found to account for flooding in a basement at Esplanade when water covered with an oily scum rose above normal levels. The sewer was also found to be free from obstruction at Overton Road when flooding of the solum under a ground floor house was reported. Drainage defects, causing flooding round piggery premises at Boreland, are being investigated; previously ground subsidence in the area damaged drains and septic tanks. The parties concerned have been notified of the nuisance with a view to abatement.

A new sewer was extended along Chapel Burn to take the flow from Chapel Village and the old sewage disposal works, which was unsatisfactory in operation, has been dismantled. The comprehensive main drainage scheme at Pathhead Sands and the provision of a new sewer outfall at the East Burn is nearing completion. Main drainage to link up with this system was completed at Den Quarry; the remaining length of this sewer from south of Den Road to the East Burn sea-outfall is the only section now to be renewed. A pumped drainage scheme was installed at Ravenscraig Park where a bowling pavilion, conveniences and other buildings have been erected at a lower level than the main sewer in Dysart Road. Sewage flows by gravity to a low-lying pump house, after which it is pumped automatically to the main sewer. No serious pollution of the foreshores was noted during the year, but this occurs occasionally depending on wind and tide.

24. Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Three premises are registered where the manufacture of new furniture and bedding involves the use of filling materials. There are no premises within the Burgh where flock is manufactured or stored. It was not found necessary to submit samples of filling materials for analysis.

25. Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two shopkeepers applied to be licenced in 1955; in each case the trade in pets and fish is on a small scale. No infringements occurred but budgerigars were found on display in non-licenced premises with a view to sale for the breeder who stayed nearby. The shopkeeper discontinued the practice when the requirements of the Act were brought to his attention.

26. Pharmacy and Poisons Act and Orders

Five names were added to the Council's list of authorised sellers of Part II poisons, making a total of 25 shopkeepers covering 38 separate premises. Five shopkeepers sell poisons coming within the First Schedule to the Poisons Rules, mainly for horticultural purposes and registers were found to be in order. In the course of 63 visits to premises to ensure proper labelling of containers and packages it was found that several shopkeepers were failing to add the name and address of seller to the container before sale took place; verbal warnings were given. Four small shops were discovered selling Part II poisons without being registered. This referred to disinfectants coming within the Rules. The shopkeepers concerned applied to be added to the Council's list when written intimation of the infringement was notified to them. Two test samples of disinfectants, submitted for analysis, were found to comply.

27. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs

Test samples sent to the Agricultural Analyst for examination included four fertilisers and three feeding stuffs. Two fertilisers

conformed in all respects with limits of variation allowed in the Act and two fertilisers showed an excess in one constituent above the guarantee. Two feeding-stuffs also produced an excess in one constituent above the guarantee. Since the limits of variation were set with due regard to the ability of manufacturers to comply with them the sellers were notified of their obligations. In the case of Plant Food Tablets this particular product was withdrawn from sale by the makers until the reason for any deficiencies was solved. In the case of a Lawn Conditioner which was found to be without a statutory statement of analysis, the firm stated that, while they had always contended their product was not a fertiliser, they had been advised to include a declaration leaflet with each bag, which was now being done to comply with the requirements of the Act.

The samples examined included general fertilisers and tablets, sulphate of ammonia, dried blood, layers' mash and meat and bone meal.

